TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 7, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 2 totaled an estimated 18.2 billion ton-miles, 1.0 percent above the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first nine weeks of 1985 was an estimated 147.7 billion ton-miles, down 5.9 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 2 totaled 394,948, up 1.0 percent from last year, and 2.8 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 3.4 percent in the East and 4.8 percent in the South, but down 3.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 13 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were up 5,223 cars (4.7 percent) and motor vehicles and equipment increased by 2,860 cars (14.5 percent). Nineteen of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended February 23 totaled 85,120 trailers and/or containers, 1.4 percent above the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first eight weeks of the year was 639,815 trailers and/or containers, down 4.7 percent.

Effective today, the figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now only carry one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/02/85:

	Loadings in Week ended March 2, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,253	D	1,821	7.0	I	2,288	10.4
Other farm products	4,087	I	55	1.4	I	523	14.7
Metallic ores	12,155	D	2,227	15.5	I	214	1.8
Coal	115,556	I	5,223	4.7	D	5,875	4.8
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,050	I	978	10.8	I	163	1.6
Nonmetallic minerals	12,467	I	1,554	14.2	I	2,312	22.8
Grain mill products	10,868	D	569	5.0	I	331	3.1
Food and kindred products	11,538	I	256	2.3	I	742	6.9
Primary forest products	12,490	D	1,146	8.4	D	1,040	7.7
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,469	D	654	8.1	I	483	6.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,569	D	186	1.2	I	882	6.0
Chemicals and allied products	26,186	D	684	2.5	I	1,462	5.9
Petroleum products	4,597	D	452	9.0	I	156	3.5
Stone, clay and glass products	10,320	D	95	0.9	I	270	2.7
Coke	5,272	I	403	8.3	I	390	8.0
Metals and products	10,484	D	1,105	9.5	I	1,488	16.5
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,616	I	2,860	14.5	I	193	0.9
Waste and scrap materials	9,865	D	355	3.5	I	551	5.9
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,303	D	478	6.1	I	651	9.8
All other carloads	61,626	I	2,380	4.0	I	4,523	7.9
LCL traffic	177	D	169	48.8	I	24	15.7
Total Cars Loaded	394,948	I	3,768	1.0	I	10,731	2.8
Corresponding week of 1984	391,180						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (9 weeks)	3,182,549	3,414,909	D 6.8
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
8 Weeks ended February 23	129.5	138.9	D 6.7
Week ended March 2	18.2	18.0	I 1.0
9 weeks cumulative	147.7	156.9	D 5.9

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